

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **2013 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #37** **Summer Announcement #34, District 1 Commercial Fishing Periods** Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 75,000 Chinook salmon through June 30 is well below the historical average of 112,000 for this date. Conversely, the Pilot Station sonar summer chum salmon passage estimate is approximately 1.8 million fish which is well above the median of 1.1 million for this date. Poor Chinook salmon run sizes in recent years warrant continued caution as the 2013 run progresses.

Under new regulations adopted by the Alaska Board of Fisheries in 2013, the department may by emergency order authority allow the use of dip nets, beach seines, and gillnets of 5 ½-inch or smaller mesh size not exceeding 30 meshes in depth as commercial gear. These new gear options are intended to allow for additional summer chum directed commercial fishing opportunity while reducing the incidental harvest of Chinook salmon.

Based on the abundance of summer chum salmon and consistent with these new regulations, this announcement opens two commercial fishing periods in District 1.

**District 1 Commercial Beach Seine and Dip Net:** Commercial salmon fishing in District 1 will be open for one 8-hour commercial fishing period with beach seine and dip net gear only. .

Period #15: 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 2, until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 2

Subsistence fishing with these gear types will not be allowed during this commercial fishing period.

Commercial fishermen using dip nets or beach seine gear are required to immediately release Chinook salmon back to the water alive. Chinook salmon caught and released must be recorded on a fish ticket. In the event that a Chinook salmon is killed by these gear types, the dead Chinook salmon must be recorded on a fish ticket and forfeited to the state.

**District 1 Commercial Gillnet (South Mouth Only):** Commercial salmon fishing in District 1 will be open from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, until 12:00 midnight Tuesday, July 2. This will be a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 5 ½-inch or smaller mesh size and not exceeding 30 meshes in depth to target summer chum salmon.

Based on current assessment information, the area open to commercial fishing is being limited to only a portion of District 1 in which the incidental harvest rate of Chinook salmon is anticipated to be low. The portion open to commercial fishing will be the South Mouth area down river of the lower point of Head of Passes to Chris Point within District 1. Both locations are identified by ADF&G regulatory markers. The area open to commercial fishing includes Black River, Kwiguk Pass, and coastal waters from the Black River to one mile north of Kwiguk Pass. Middle and North Mouth and passes such as Aproka and Bugomowik, north of the mainstem South Mouth are closed to commercial fishing.

The sale of Chinook salmon is prohibited. Therefore, commercial gillnet fishermen can release live Chinook salmon or use them for subsistence purposes. Chinook salmon caught but not sold must be reported on fish tickets.

Fishermen intending to participate in both commercial periods are reminded that they may only have one type of gear in their vessel at a time.

Fishermen in District 1 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding the salmon fishing schedule.

The subsistence fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADFG office in Emmonak at 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Fairbanks at 456-0418 or in Emmonak at 949-1825.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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